
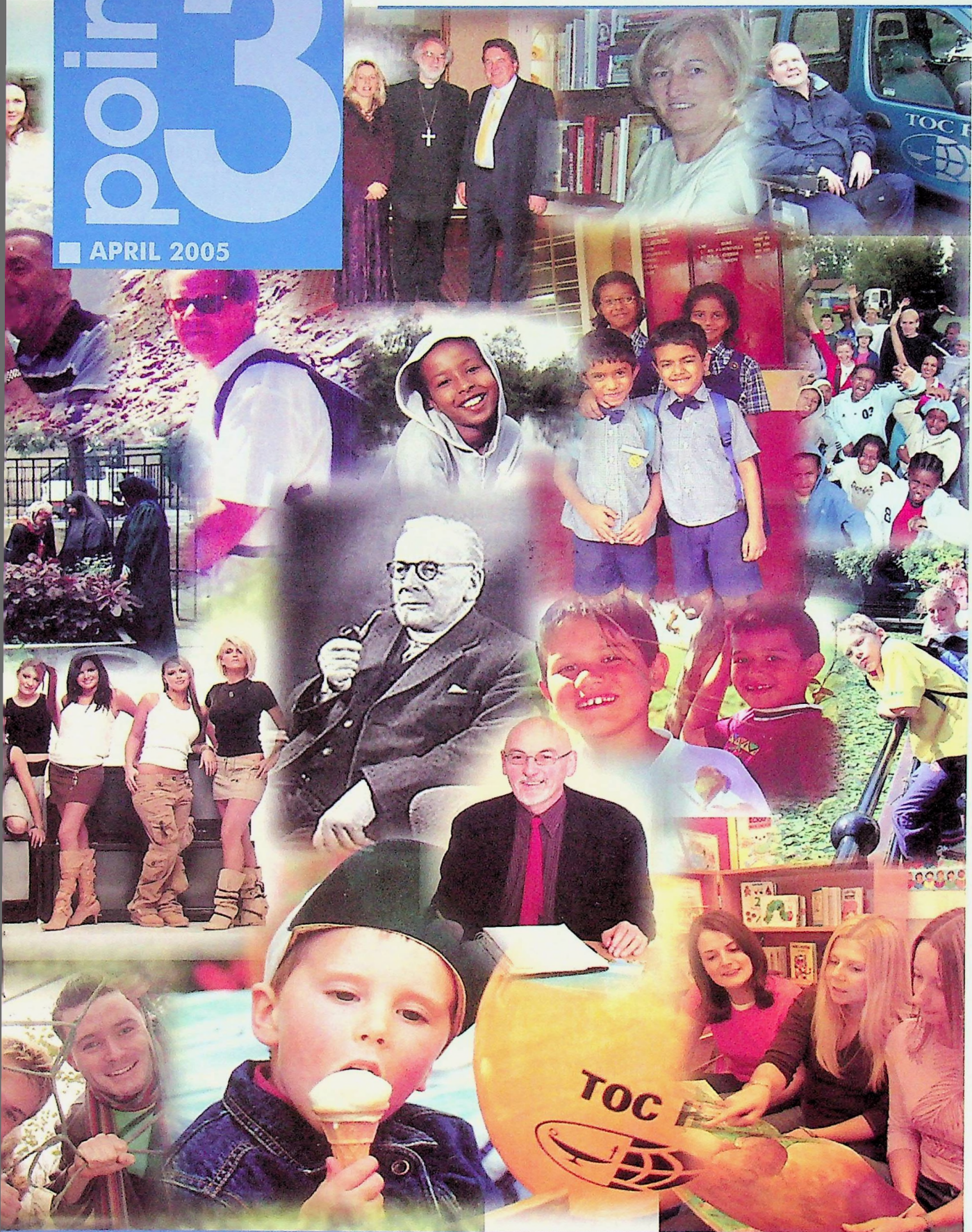


point 3

■ APRIL 2005

The magazine of  **TOC H**



Goodbye to the teddy boy



Flashback - Keith played a big part in organising the teddy bears' picnic at Gateshead International Stadium in 2002, which attracted 4000 children and their families

Toc H bids a fond farewell to Keith Crocker, who has retired from the organisation.

Keith first came to Toc H in 1987 as Project Leader of UCANDUIT, a training centre for the long-term unemployed in a socially deprived area of Newcastle.

When UCANDUIT closed, Keith moved on to Webb House in Middlesbrough, a half-way house offering support to people recovering from mental illness.

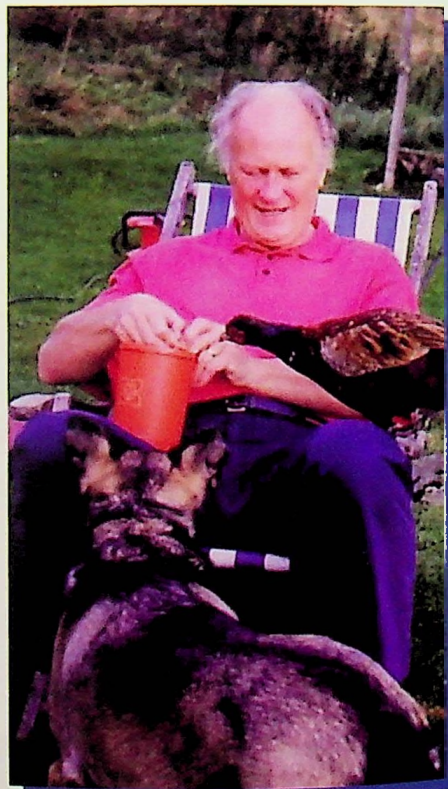
Keith was then asked to take up a Warden position at Toc H Colsterdale - a rural centre in the Yorkshire Dales. What began as a three month trial became his job for the next 12 years!

When Toc H Colsterdale closed for a year during the foot and mouth crisis, Keith took the time to help organise the giant teddy bears' Picnic at Gateshead

International Stadium. The event proved highly successful, attracting vast numbers of parents and their children and raising the profile of Toc H.

Keith said: "I have never thought of it as just a 'job'. I have met and worked with some fascinating and interesting people and I have tried to treat everyone with respect. I will miss the challenges of the job and, needless to say, the many friends I have made over the years."

●Toc H also says goodbye and thank you to Roger Cattermoul, who leaves his post as Warden of Toc H Rickmansworth which he has held since 2002.



Keith relaxes with friends at the Colsterdale Talbot Centre

...and a warm welcome

Mark Trotter has recently joined Toc H as the Development Officer for the South West region.

From a background working extensively in the voluntary sector - with roles in community development, guidance, advice, training and education - Mark linked up with Toc H in December.

Mark said: "I knew of Toc H from my grandfather's wartime experience. When his boat sunk, Toc H provided transport to enable the crew to get home from the docks.

"I was attracted to Toc H's commitment to improving communities and regeneration of areas as well as developing community leadership. These are all what I consider very important issues."

The first major project Mark will be involved in is the setting up of an Urban Talbot Centre in the South West, which will develop community leadership, and provide support through workshops and learning programmes.

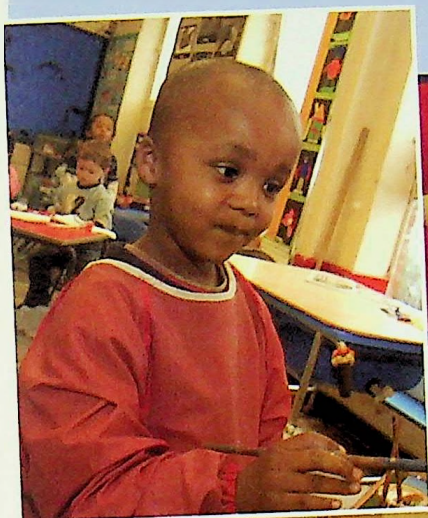
Mark said: "We will use the centre to help people from the region in a number of ways. We can offer training such as computer skills and support personal development to help people from the community back to work, or progress in their current career. Ultimately the centre will become self-sustaining through the various workshops and the café, and become an important part of the community."

Nursery given the thumbs up

Children from the Toc H St Francis Nursery in Woodgate Valley, Birmingham demonstrate the range of activities on offer.

Toc H already knows how good the Nursery is, but it has now been given the official thumbs up from a recent Ofsted report which described it as truly excellent.

Well done to nursery manager Tracy Goodhead and all her staff.

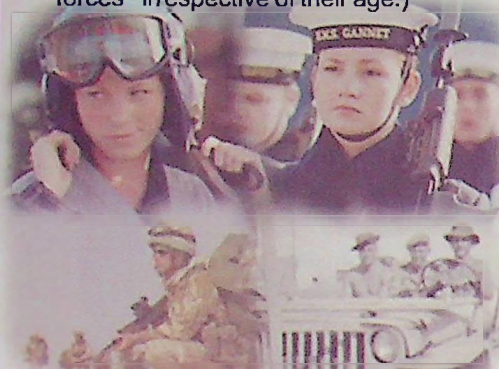


Don't miss our birthday celebrations at Coventry Cathedral on Saturday June 25th.
Contact Central Services to book your place.

Toc H call to veterans

Toc H is planning a series of exciting events after signing up as a partner to the Year of the Volunteer 2005 (YV05).

Each month there is a volunteering theme, with Toc H involved with 'Veterans Month' in July. Any veterans group, or individual veterans who would like to be involved should get in touch through the details at the bottom of this page. (A 'veteran' is someone who has left the armed forces - irrespective of their age.)



The Year of the Volunteer is running an awards programme to honour and recognise the contribution of volunteers. If you would like to suggest one of our volunteers for a YV05 Volunteering Award send suggestions to Geoff Hammond (contact details below).

Planned events include:

- The Toc H Narrow Boat Summer Cruise 2005 is a month-long narrow boat cruise around the central canals of England. Contact Sally Simms on 01892 618414 or email toch@twellsdev.charitydays.co.uk
- An activity camp for veterans and their families at Alison House from Saturday 23 July to Saturday 30 July. Contact Andrew Rawding, 159 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, Middx, EN1 3UJ, tel 020 8364 6628 or email therawdings@fish.co.uk See <http://www.toch.org.uk/talbotcenters.htm> for more information on Alison House.
- We are looking to host a 'Storython' day at one of the TalbotCentres to link into the BBC People's War project. If any young people from

Toc H projects would like to volunteer as an interviewer please let us know. The BBC would like to interview literally anyone over the age of 60 about their memories of the Second World War to record it on their online archive. Visit the People's War website (see bottom of page for link). To take part in the 'Storython' please contact Geoff Hammond.

Our partners for YV05:

- The Active Communities Directorate at the Home Office and CSV and Volunteer England are delivering the programme for the year:
<http://www.yearofthevolunteer.org/>
- The Veterans Unit at the Ministry of Defence link into the 60th Commemoration of WWII. The National Commemoration is on 10 July in London: see
<http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk/anniversaries/anniversaries.htm>
- The launch of the first Veterans Awareness Week in July around the 10 July events. There will be a 'veterans' village' in St James Park in London:
<http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk/calendar/index.htm>
- The Confederation of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations - COBSEO - and all their members:
<http://www.cobseo.org.uk/>
- The BBC People's War Project: help contribute to one of the largest archives of oral history ever put together:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ww2/>

There will be more news about our plans over the coming weeks on the Toc H website:
<http://www.toch.org.uk>

If you have any ideas or would like to get involved please contact:

Geoff Hammond, Toc H, 29-31 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8SW tel 020 7269 7740 and email geoffhammond@andersongrounds.com

Or Toc H Head Office HQ tel 01296 642020 email info@toch.org.uk

Welcome to new members

Toc H welcomes back James Bowler, a World War II veteran, who has re-joined Toc H Kidderminster after 40 years. James was previously a member for more than 20 years and has recently been involved in Bewdley's 'Thumb a Lift' community transport scheme.

Other new members are:

Ben Wade
Tunbridge Wells

Rhys Curzon
Tunbridge Wells

Sheraine Dell-Curzon
Tunbridge Wells

James Bowler
Wyre Forest

Debbie Howe
Central Services

A big impression

The dramatic rescue of Atlantic oarsman Mark Stubbs, shipwrecked by a hurricane last year and reported in a recent Point 3, brought back memories for Donald Norcross, secretary of Gloucester Toc H. In 1998, following a previous trans-Atlantic adventure, skipper Mark brought his boat, the Toc H Phoenix, to Gloucester docks. Donald reports that intrepid Mark greatly impressed the people who went to meet him and see the boat.

Bishop's link with Toc H

David Sheppard, the former Bishop of Liverpool and former England cricket captain who died in March, was part of the Toc H 'family.' Born in Reigate, Surrey, in 1929, the Rt Rev Lord Sheppard of Liverpool was a cousin of Toc H founder Tubby Clayton.

Bringing people together

A sponsored charity walk in Northern Ireland gave Andrew Rawding his first introduction to Toc H, and now the army officer-turned-curate is hoping to work with the organisation to bring veterans together.

NEWS

Soldier gave up his gun to preach peace

By Cymbeline Moore

TWELVE years ago, when Andrew Rawding was posted in Northern Ireland, he faced two attempts on his life.

But the officer-turned-curate at St Andrew's Church in Enfield has now returned to the community which once harboured the terrorists who tried to kill him.

His recent visit to South Armagh was part of Andrew's efforts to raise cash to buy an educational bus for the community.

"I wanted to make a significant contribution to the peace process" said the 34-year-old.

"The bus, which will be specially designed, will be a real symbol of reconciliation. People in the local community will know people from London and former soldiers have contributed to the facility."

The £150,000 bus is a mobile classroom and community centre which will travel around villages and schools in South Armagh offering non-sectarian education.

So far, more than £40,000 has been raised towards the bus, with £3,000 of this sum coming from St Andrew's Church in Market Place and the Roman Catholic Lady of Mount Carmel and St George in London Road, Enfield, whose congregations sponsored Andrew on a walk around the former "bandit" country.

"It was the first time a former British Army officer had walked around the area, because in the past it would have been inconceivable for personal security reasons," Andrew said. "It was a milestone."



A tale of two lives: Reverend Andrew Rawding (left) as he is now, and (right) as a British Army officer during a tour of Sarajevo



Andrew went into the army at 19 and, at 21, was posted to Northern Ireland to support the local police force, the RUC.

The first attempt on his life was in January 1992 when the IRA fired a mortar at his Landrover, but Andrew escaped with minor injuries.

In May later that year Andrew was at a vehicle checkpoint when the terrorists rolled a bomb along the nearby railway track.

While Andrew was lucky to escape with his life, one of his fellow soldiers was killed.

In 1999, after postings in the Falklands and Bosnia, Andrew resigned to become a pastor.

"I couldn't, with integrity, balance my faith with my role as an army officer," he said.

Andrew then went back to where his fellow soldier had been killed, but was also put in touch with IRA ex-prisoners, including one

whose friends had died while on hunger strike.

The pastor began to build bridge between the communities in London and Northern Ireland through St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in central London, whose church was partly destroyed by an IRA bomb, and the Crossfire Trust.

"I have seen pain and hurt people on all sides," said Andrew "I couldn't just let that go."

Newsflash: the piece on Andrew by the Enfield Advertiser

Andrew met Toc H chief executive Geoff Smith on the 'Ring of Gullion Way' walk in South Armagh, when walkers raised money for a new community bus on behalf of the Crossfire Trust charity.

A former British Army officer, Andrew served for ten years with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, which included tours in Northern Ireland and Bosnia. In 1999 he resigned his commission to follow a call to become an Anglican priest.

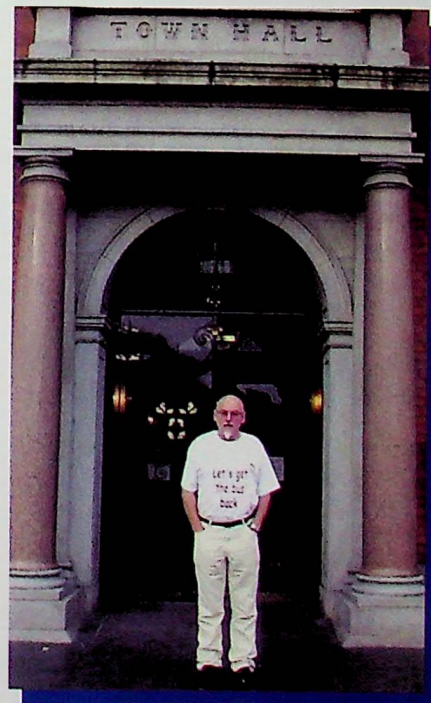
Andrew said: "Central to my call as a Christian has been the desire to be involved in reconciliation work. As the Chaplain to the Northern Ireland Veterans Association, I am involved in facilitating reconciliation between veterans, as well as working with them and their past traumatic experiences. I hope that there is potential for future programmes focused on friendship, reconciliation and British Army ex-

service men and women."

It is with British Army veterans in mind that Andrew hopes to work in partnership with Toc H.

Andrew said: "We are organising a summer camp in July for 'Veterans Month' which will be an opportunity for ex-service people and volunteers supporting veterans to develop relationships and mutual support for each other. Veterans who have suffered traumatic experiences during their military service gain enormous benefit from being 'reunited' with others who have shared similar experiences."

Currently Andrew and Toc H are planning the camp at Alison House in Derbyshire. The dates have been booked for 23 - 30 July and anyone interested should contact Andrew directly (see page 4 for details).



Andrew met Geoff Smith on the 'Ring of Gullion Way' charity walk - which began at Newry Town Hall

Don't miss our birthday celebrations at Coventry Cathedral on Saturday June 25th.
Contact Central Services to book your place.



Welcoming all in friendship

Toc H - in partnership with the National Asylum Support Service - has opened the doors of St Margaret's Day Centre in Leicester to refugees seeking asylum from persecution, torture and imprisonment in their home countries.

Kevin Ncube - a Zimbabwean - was granted asylum last summer after being forced to leave his home and work as a TV presenter, and is now heading up this challenging project with a team of volunteers.

Kevin said: "Toc H has given me an opportunity to say a very practical 'thank you' by being able to help others find a safe refuge from persecution."

Almost a year ago St Margaret's Parochial Church Council made their church hall available as the base for the centre. Canon Barry Naylor, the parish priest, chairs the advisory group which supports Kevin and the volunteers and Leicester's Multi-faith Group has raised more than £6,000 from local



Members of the Leicester Advisory Group (left to right) Rachel Carmichael (Quaker), Barry Naylor (Anglican), Kevin Ncube (Toc H) and Ceila Cox-Jones (Ba'hai)

churches, synagogues, mosques and temples to keep the centre operational.

In less than six months just under 200 clients have visited Kevin and his team from countries including Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, the Congo, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Serbia, Somalia, Turkey, the Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Emotional

At St Margaret's they receive practical help such as food, toiletries, advice finding accommodation, with

medical queries and filling in forms, as well as help with the emotional and cultural difficulties they experience.

Dr. Eric Forshaw, consultant to Toc H on the scheme, said: "The project is fulfilling Toc H's commitment to welcome all in friendship, to respond to the needs of others, and to challenge their neighbours to seek the way of Christ, to care for 'the least of his brethren' - the destitute and outcast, the hungry and thirsty, the persecuted stranger and those in prison."

Toc H members focus on new project

Toc H Scotland is backing a new project that will help young people isolated from society get back on their feet.

When independent charity Focus Trust failed in its bid to turn a disused house into short-stay accommodation for young people, it was thought the project would never get off the ground.

Toc H members Graham Peattie and John Rintoul are two of the trustees of Focus Trust who thought the idea was doomed in 2000 after they were outbid at an auction for a building

owned by Westpark Church in Denny. John said: "It was a massive blow at the time to lose out, but now it seems things could turn out for the best."

Optimistic

An approach to Falkirk Council looks likely to result in two disused flats in the middle of Denny being transformed into a drop-in centre - and John is optimistic they'll receive permission to use the site soon.

The centre will be a place young people can visit to learn practical skills from members of the community such as electronics, cooking, painting and plumbing.

John said: "Many young adults don't have the skills to look after themselves, or their homes properly. We're looking to round up some volunteers from the local community - perhaps people who have retired - that have important practical skills to pass on."

- Members held a Scottish regional meeting in Denny on a snowy day in February and welcomed Director Geoff Smith, development officer Adele Hicks, Point 3 Editor Sue Coffey, and development consultant Michael Fass. They heard updates on progress from Adele and Michael and confirmed that the finances were now held at Toc H Central.

Letters to the editor

Dear Toc H,

I am writing to you in the hope you might be able to help in some way with a project we're trying to get underway.

I am a life sentence prisoner serving part of my sentence at HMP Grendon. As you may be aware, Grendon is one of the leading therapeutic jails in Europe. The work that takes place here, and the manner in which it is undertaken, is unique in the British justice system and the prison has a proven and impressive track record of rehabilitation amongst the men that volunteer to take part.

Community

This success is achieved in many ways. Perhaps foremost is the encouragement of inmates to gain some understanding of how they hold the attitudes and values that they do. They explore - in a group setting - the at times traumatic experiences and influences of their formative and adult years, and how this is reflected in their offending behaviour. A great many of the inmates are recovering addicts of one form or another. Time for reflection is encouraged, as is

involvement in various projects designed to foster a sense of community and a responsibility for both the self and others.

To this end we are endeavouring to start a 'fish club', involving the setting up of tanks and equipment, the procuring of a stock of fish, and careful maintenance and care.

**"Involvement
in projects
fosters a
sense of
community"**

Enthusiasm

The one thing we aren't lacking in is enthusiasm, but unfortunately, with wages running at an average of seven pounds a week, we are desperately in need of funds. If it is possible for anyone to make a small donation we'd be extremely grateful.

Please make any cheques etc payable to The Governor, HMP Grendon, A Wing Fish Club and send to:

A Wing HMP Grendon
Grendon Underwood
Aylesbury
Bucks
HP18 OTL

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Paul Teed.

Life in the fast lane

Dear Toc H,

I'm 55 and I've had MS since I was 19. I rely totally on my wheelchair and my carers for everything, but I do have a very special carer. Linda is my personal assistant, best friend and driver.

I had to stop driving some 20 years ago and became reliant on other people to fetch things for me or I had to travel in expensive taxis.

So, I use the Toc H Wheelchair Car - a special 'Chairman' model built to carry a passenger in a wheelchair but with plenty of room.

It's provided by Toc H 'Thumb-a-Lift' at Bewdley and is used by many passengers in Worcestershire and the surrounding counties. It can be driven by carers, husbands or wives, or Toc H volunteers.



Regular user of the transport service Steve Hewerdine, who has also advised the branch on the needs of disabled.

It's simple to book and collect, and it allows me to do the ordinary things which others take for granted.

It's still exciting to go out and I get an overwhelming feeling of exhilaration - freedom to travel anywhere I want. My quality of life has been enhanced beyond all recognition.

I can't afford to keep my own car, but I can share the Toc H 'Chairman'.

Steve Hewerdine

Obituaries

Janet Russell
Crewkerne

James E Fleet
SE Region

Sandra Bird
Broughton Astley

Philip Jeanes
Broughton Astley

Ivy Fitchett
Kings Norton

Kenneth Couch
Burraton (M)

David Jones
Llandrindod Wells

Ronald Hooper
SW Region

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